

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

took to bum itself out. Even after Ham Nghi was captured, of *campaigning* were needed to force the country to

the new government: even after De Courcy's recall the whole country remained as troubled as ever.

Public opinion in France was alternately enraged and perplexed by the torn of events in Indo-China. Smaller and smaller majorities voted for *the* war: once the colony was saved by a slim majority of votes. The situation called for a radical solution. In January 1886,

it was when Paul Bert was named Resident General of Annam-Toakin. Bert's friendship for Gambetta, his distinction

as a scientist, Ms anti-clericalism were of long standing, but he had developed an interest in colonial expansion. Paris

received of Ms nomination with mixed surprise and dismay. His motives generally suspect, as voiced by one anonymous letter he received:

Mf& *ami Paul ^ awas-tu Mmtat ton petit miUton?"¹*

Despite the discouraging send-off, Bert's achievements were remark-

for so short a tenure of office. His principal reform was a return to the in Annam, by governing through the

Scholars to find the prestige and power he partially restored. In

he favoured direct administration. He did not break in this and by transferring the imperial to « the of Tonkin, he completed the

administration of the two Annamite countries, Bert's motive in this was to cut the subsidies given by that

Court in Tonkin. Without the support he thought the automatically collapse. But in

his It was a and profitable three-cornered had recently organized in Tonkin, with

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